EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes
and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided
by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be
submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview
with Peter B. Martine (Reg. No. 32,043) on 3/12/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

In claim 1, line 8, after "lightness" (second occurrence), insert --where at least
some of the tone values of lightness have different values--.

In claim 1, line 12, change "parameter" to --parameters--.

In claim 3, line 2, change "parameter" to --parameters--.

In claim 6, line 3, change "value" to --values--.

In claim 10, line 6, after "subject image", insert --data--.

In claim 12, line 5, change "value" to --values--.

In claim 13, line 8, after "lightness" (second occurrence), insert --where at least
some of the tone values of lightness have different values--.

In claim 13, line 18, change "process" to --step--.

In claim 17, line 6, change "is capable of achieving on" to --causes--.

In claim 17, line 6, after "computer" (second occurrence), insert --to perform--.

In claim 17, line 13, after "lightness", insert --where at least some of the tone values of lightness have different values--.

In claim 17, line 24, after "program", delete "is".

In claim 17, line 24, change "capable" to --performs functions--.

In claim 18, line 2, delete "is".

In claim 18, line 2, change "capable of" to --performs--.

In claim 18, line 10, delete "is".

In claim 18, line 10, change "capable of achieving" to --performs--.

In the abstract:

In the abstract, line 13, delete "means".

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record, namely, Kubo et al. (US 2003/0095269 A1) and/or Shimada (US 2005/0219618 A1), do not disclose, teach or suggest, (a) selecting a parameter from a plurality of modification candidate parameters for modifying colors of pixels in image data, the plurality of modification candidate parameters corresponding to mutually differing modifications, and each of the plurality of modification candidate parameters corresponding to modification which converts tone values of a primary color in a color system into tone values of the same primary color, or modification which converts tone values of lightness into tone values of lightness where at least some of

the tone values of lightness have different values; and (b) generating modified image data according to the selected parameter from subject image data that is a subject for modifications of color tones in image, wherein the modified image data is different from the subject image data in colors of at least part of pixels, wherein, the plurality of modification candidate parameters includes: N_c color image modification candidate parameters for color image data, where N_c represents a number that is a positive integer; and N_m monochrome image modification candidate parameters for monochrome images, where N_m represents a number that is an integer larger than N_c; the step (a) includes: (a1) selecting the parameter from the N_c color image modification candidate parameters in case where the subject image data is color image data; and (a2) selecting the parameter from the N_m monochrome image modification candidate parameters when the subject image data is monochrome image data, as recited in independent claim 13.

Independent claims 1 and 17 recite the same or similar claim limitations as recited in claim 13 above, therefore claims 1 and 17 are allowed for the same or similar reasons as stated in independent claim 13 above.

Furthermore, claims 1, 13 and 17 are found to be allowable over the closest prior art of record mentioned above, for the reasons stated in applicant remarks found on pages 11-14 of the amendment which was filed on 09/15/2009.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Dov Popovici whose telephone number is 571-272-

4083. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dov   Popovici/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625